

of time, the bill be read a third time and the Senate proceed to a vote on passage at a time to be determined by the majority leader in consultation with the Democratic leader.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2005

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask that the Chair lay before the Senate a House message to accompany S. 1281.

The Chair laid before the Senate a message from the House of Representatives insisting upon its amendment to the bill (S. 1281) entitled "An Act to authorize appropriations for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration for science, aeronautics, exploration, exploration capabilities, and the Inspector General, and for other purposes, for fiscal years 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, and 2010", and asking a conference with the Senate on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses thereon.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate disagree with the House amendment and agree with the request for a conference. I further ask that the Chair be authorized to appoint conferees on the part of the Senate with a ratio of 3 to 2.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Presiding Officer (Mr. SUNUNU) appointed Mr. STEVENS, Mr. LOTT, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. INOUE, and Mr. NELSON of Florida conferees on the part of the Senate.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME—H.R. 4096, H.R. 4388 and H.R. 4440

Mr. MCCONNELL. I understand there are three bills at the desk and I ask for their first reading en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the bills by title.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 4096) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend to 2006 the alternative minimum tax relief available in 2005 and to index such relief for inflation.

A bill (H.R. 4388) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend certain expiring provisions, and for other purposes.

A bill (H.R. 4440) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide tax benefits for the Gulf Opportunity Zone and certain areas affected by Hurricanes Rita and Wilma, and for other purposes.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask for second readings and in order to place the bills on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I object to my own request, all en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard. The measures will be read again on the next legislative day.

APPOINTMENT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair, on behalf of the majority leader, pursuant to Public Law 108-109, title VI, section 637, appoints the following individual to serve as a member of the Helping to Enhance the Livelihood of People (HELP) Around the Globe Commission: Jerome F. Climer of Virginia.

ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2005

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the

Senate completes its business today, it stand in adjournment until 11 a.m. tomorrow, Tuesday, December 13. I further ask that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved, and the Senate proceed to a period for morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROGRAM

Mr. MCCONNELL. Tomorrow the Senate will debate the Bahrain Free Trade Agreement under the previous order. The Senate will also begin debate on the motions to instruct conferees with respect to the deficit reduction bill. Members are reminded that we will have stacked votes on Wednesday morning and they should plan their schedules accordingly. We have a lot of work to finish this week and we will need the cooperation and patience of all Members to complete our work before Christmas.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 11 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. MCCONNELL. If there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand in adjournment under the provisions of S. Res. 330 as a further mark of respect to the late Senator McCarthy.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 5:41 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, December 13, 2005, at 11 a.m.